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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/769,380

Applicant(s)

NOJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Tran A. Quoc

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 August 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This is a **Final** rejection in response to Applicant's Amendments/Remarks filed 08/30/2007. Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 1-27 have been amended, which claims benefit of Application Japan 2000-205339 filed 07/06/2000 (Fujitsu-Japan).

It is noted, Claims 1-14, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 presented in the Office Action dated 05/09/2007, hereby withdrawn due to the Applicant's Amendments filed 08/30/2007.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined

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under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Onishi et al.** US006154720A- filed Jun. 13, 1996 (hereinafter Onishi).

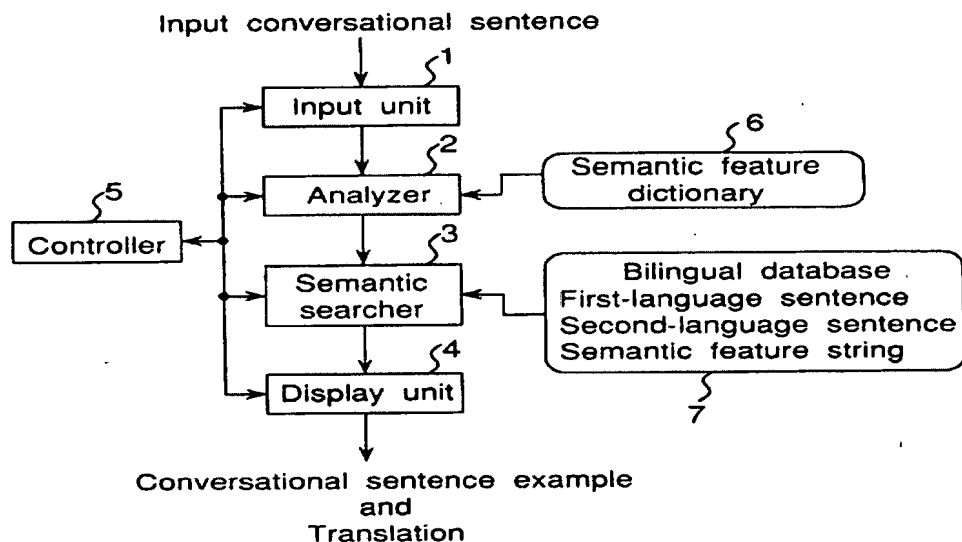
Regarding ***independent claim 25***, Onishi teaches:

A method for processing, comprising: receiving a candidate character string input from a user; selecting, by a processor, at least one program while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined and finalized; and displaying output from the program.

(See, Onishi Fig. 1 and also col. 16 lines 35-60, teaching an input unit 1 to which a natural conversational sentence in a first language, or a source language, is entered freely by the user, an analyzer 2, a semantic searcher 3 and a display unit 4 for displaying the result from unit 1.

Also, see Onishi col. 80, line 61, teaching automaton processor, which scans the whole input character string, to search for specific character strings. This interpretation is supported by Applicant's Specification, which states, "*candidates formed by one or more undefined characters are successively displayed and one desired candidate is selected by the user*" at Page 18 Lines 5-10.)

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Fig. 1**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-24, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by **Doi et al.** US006247010B1 –filed Aug. 31, 1998 (hereinafter Doi), in view of **Onishi et al.** US006154720A- filed Jun. 13, 1996 (hereinafter Onishi).

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*Regarding independent **claim 15**, Doi teaches:*

**A method of carryout a process depending on input character,
comprising: detecting a keyword from a candidate character string
that is being input by the character input function;**

(See, Doi col. 3 lines 50-55, teaching analyzing text entered by a user and extracting a search keyword.

Also, see Doi FIG. 2 col. 7 lines 10-15, teaching text (character strings) the user entered from the input device 21 and screen positional information on characters displayed on the screen are entered from the input-controlling module 24. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation the Examiner reads the claimed **detecting a keyword** as a search keyword as taught by Doi.

**and issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the
keyword in a dictionary, which is selected as a search target on the
menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;**

(See Doi col. 7 lines 55- 65, teaching search a search is performed for a keyword previously stored in the database which matches the search key, and If such a word is not found, a fuzzy-match search is performed to find a word similar to the search key by allowing diverse expressions therefor, or a thesaurus or a similar-word dictionary is used to find an alternative word for the search key by expanding the search key.)

**wherein said the search request for the dictionary data specified by
the keyword, is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries
which are selected as search targets while characters of the**

**candidate character string are being input until the input characters
of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.**

(See Doi col. 7 lines 55- 65, teaching search a search is performed for a keyword previously stored in the database which matches the search key, and If such a word is not found, a fuzzy-match search is performed to find a word similar to the search key by allowing diverse expressions therefor, or a thesaurus or a similar-word dictionary is used to find an alternative word for the search key by expanding the search key.

Also, see Doi col. 7 line 65 through col. 8 line 10, teaching a plurality of similar databases may be searched. For example, when searching for an English word, a search is made to find a matching word in an English-Japanese dictionary and, if no match is found, an English-English dictionary is searched. There are several other pairs of databases, which may contain similar words.)

In addition, Doi does not explicitly teach, but Onishi teaches:

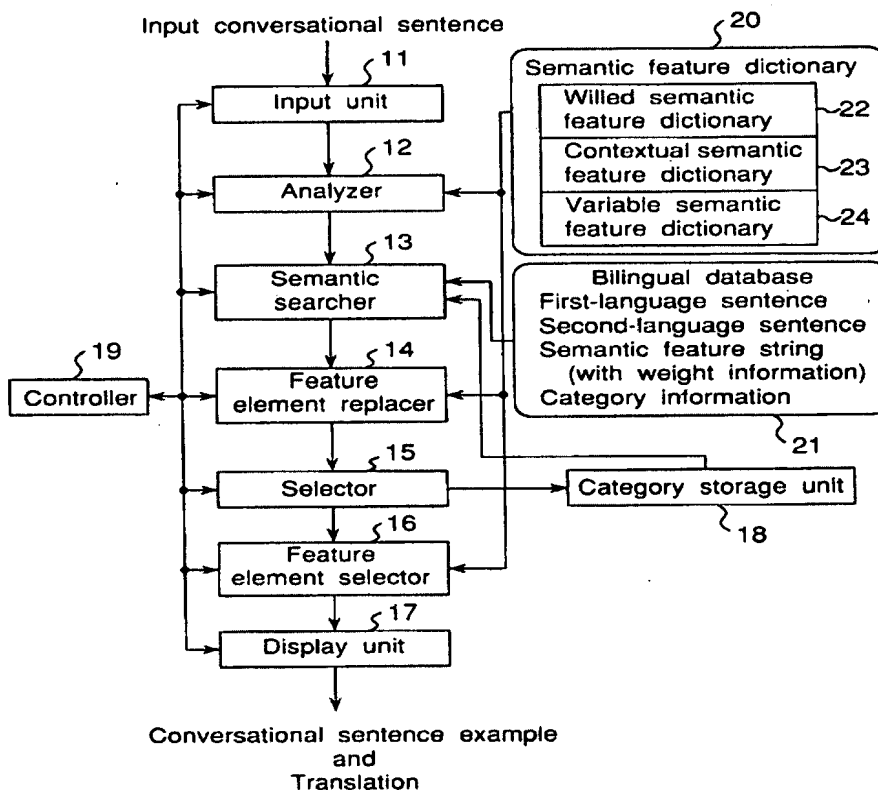
**displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries
when the keyword is detected by said detecting section;**

(See, Onishi Fig. 5 col. 21 lines 20-30, teaching Onishi col. 35 line 55, teaching the semantic feature dictionary 20 is composed of a willed semantic feature dictionary 22, a contextual semantic feature dictionary 23, and a variable semantic feature dictionary 24, which will be described in detail below.

Also, see Onishi col. 20 line 55, teaching element selector 16, and display unit 17 for displaying a finally selected conversational sentence. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, the Examiner equates the claimed

registered dictionaries as equivalent to dictionaries items 22-23 of Fig.5, as taught by Onishi.)

Fig.5



It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include a means of displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting section as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related information search method and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text

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without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

Regarding independent claim 16,

the rejection of claim 15 is fully incorporated.

In addition, Doi teaches:

wherein said program is started while characters of the candidate character string are being input until the candidate characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

(See, Doi col. 3 lines 50-55, teaching analyzing text entered by a user and extracting a search keyword.

Also, see Doi FIG. 2 col. 7 lines 10-15, teaching text (character strings) the user entered from the input device 21 and screen positional information on characters displayed on the screen are entered from the input-controlling module 24.

See also Doi col. 7 lines 55- 65, teaching search a search is performed for a keyword previously stored in the database which matches the search key, and If such a word is not found, a fuzzy-match search is performed to find a word similar to the search key by allowing diverse expressions therefor, or a thesaurus

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or a similar-word dictionary is used to find an alternative word for the search key by expanding the search key.)

In addition, Doi does not explicitly teach, but Onishi teaches:

starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter; displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting section;

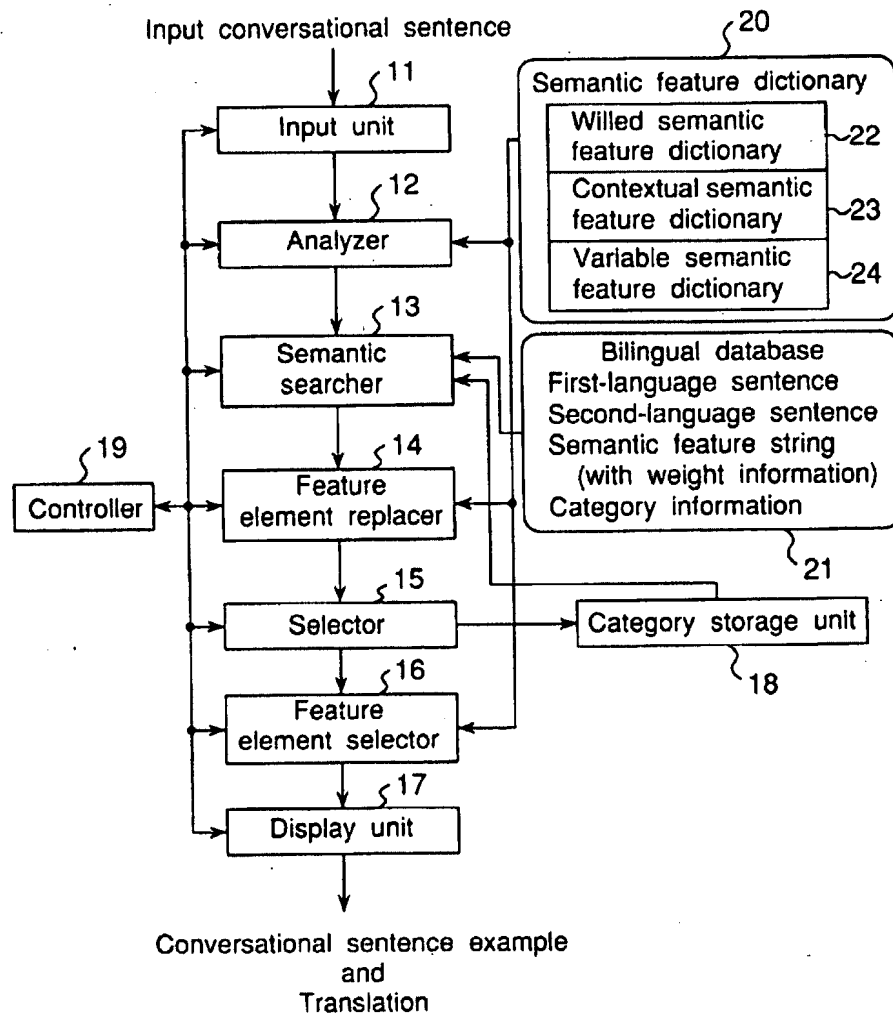
(See, Onishi Fig. 5 col. 21 lines 20-30, teaching Onishi col. 35 line 55, teaching the semantic feature dictionary 20 is composed of a willed semantic feature dictionary 22, a contextual semantic feature dictionary 23, and a variable semantic feature dictionary 24, which will be described in detail below.

Also, see Onishi col. 20 line 55, teaching element selector 16, and display unit 17 for displaying a finally selected conversational sentence.)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include a means of displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting section as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related information search method and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key

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and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

Fig.5

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Regarding independent claim 17,

the rejection of claim 15 is fully incorporated.

In addition, Doi teaches:

wherein said the program is started while characters of the candidate character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

(See, Doi col. 3 lines 50-55, teaching analyzing text entered by a user and extracting a search keyword.

Also, see Doi FIG. 2 col. 7 lines 10-15, teaching text (character strings) the user entered from the input device 21 and screen positional information on characters displayed on the screen are entered from the input-controlling module 24.

See also Doi col. 7 lines 55- 65, teaching search a search is performed for a keyword previously stored in the database which matches the search key, and If such a word is not found, a fuzzy-match search is performed to find a word similar to the search key by allowing diverse expressions therefor, or a thesaurus or a similar-word dictionary is used to find an alternative word for the search key by expanding the search key.

Also, see Doi col. 7 line 65 through col. 8 line 10, teaching a plurality of similar databases may be searched. For example, when searching for an English word, a search is made to find a matching word in an English-Japanese dictionary and, if no match is found, an English-English dictionary is searched. There are several other pairs of databases, which may contain similar words.)

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In addition, Doi does not explicitly teach, but Onishi teaches:

displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen;

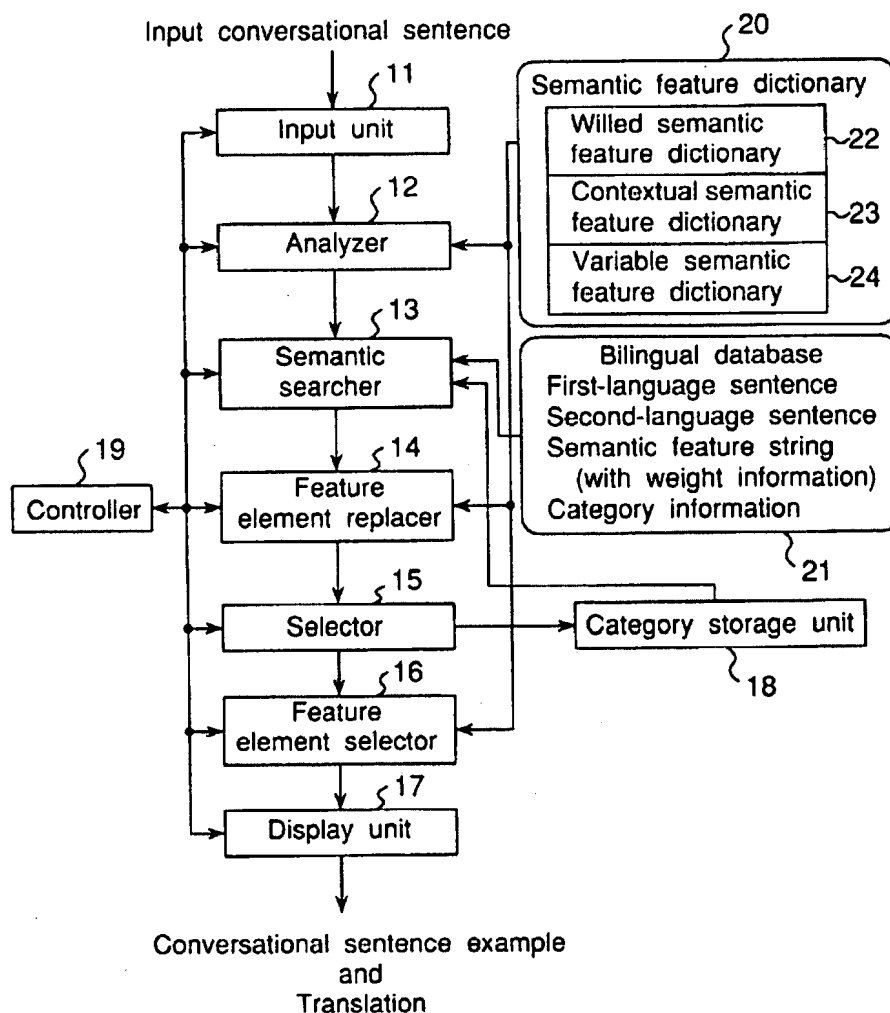
(See, Onishi Fig. 5 col. 21 lines 20-30, teaching Onishi col. 35 line 55, teaching the semantic feature dictionary 20 is composed of a willed semantic feature dictionary 22, a contextual semantic feature dictionary 23, and a variable semantic feature dictionary 24, which will be described in detail below.

Also, see Onishi col. 20 line 55, teaching element selector 16, and display unit 17 for displaying a finally selected conversational sentence. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, the Examiner equates the claimed a **program corresponding to the keyword** as equivalent to as equivalent to dictionaries items 22-23 of Fig.5, as taught by Onishi.)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include a means of displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related

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information search method and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

Fig.5

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Regarding independent claim 18,

the rejection of claim 15 is fully incorporated.

In addition, Doi teaches:

starting a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program; wherein said the conversion program is started while characters of the candidate character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

(See, Doi col. 3 lines 50-55, teaching analyzing text entered by a user and extracting a search keyword.

Also, see Doi FIG. 2 col. 7 lines 10-15, teaching text (character strings) the user entered from the input device 21 and screen positional information on characters displayed on the screen are entered from the input-controlling module 24.

See also Doi col. 7, line 65 through col. 8, line 10, teaching a plurality of similar databases may be searched. That is, one database is searched first and, if no match is found, the next database is searched. For example, when searching for an English word, a search is made to find a matching word in an English-Japanese dictionary and, if no match is found, an English-English dictionary is searched. Examples are a Japanese dictionary and a dictionary of classical Chinese-Japanese, newspaper data and magazine data, a Japanese

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document and a foreign-language document, a system-prepared database and a user-prepared database.

Also Doi at col. 2 lines 20-25, describes the kana-kanji translation (conversion) function, automatically searches for a sample of candidate kanji characters corresponding to the kana characters being entered. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, the Examiner equates the claimed **conversion program** as equivalent English-Japanese dictionary, an English-English dictionary, Japanese dictionary and a dictionary of classical Chinese-Japanese, newspaper data and magazine data, a Japanese document and a foreign-language document, those are used in the kana-kanji translation (conversion) function as discloses by Doi.)

In addition, Doi does not explicitly teach, but Onishi teaches:

displaying a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting;
(See, Onishi Fig. 5 col. 21 lines 20-30, teaching Onishi col. 35 line 55, teaching the semantic feature dictionary 20 is composed of a willed semantic feature dictionary 22, a contextual semantic feature dictionary 23, and a variable semantic feature dictionary 24, which will be described in detail below.

Also, see Onishi col. 91, lines 25-30, discloses at step S197, a menu screen is displayed by the selector 93 to allow the user to select one out of the first-language sentences of currently selected conversational sentence examples. Then, the selected first-language sentence is recognized; and at step S198 the display contents of the display screen are switched to a second-

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language sentence corresponding to the selected first-language sentence by the display unit 94. After that, the conversational sentence translating operation is ended. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, the Examiner equates the claimed **registered conversion programs** as equivalent to conversational sentence translating as taught by Onishi.)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include a means of displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related information search method and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

Regarding independent claim 19,

the rejection of claim 15 is fully incorporated.

In addition, Doi teaches:

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wherein said the process is executed while characters of the candidate character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

(See, Doi col. 3 lines 50-55, teaching analyzing text entered by a user and extracting a search keyword.

Also, see Doi FIG. 2 col. 7 lines 10-15, teaching text (character strings) the user entered from the input device 21 and screen positional information on characters displayed on the screen are entered from the input-controlling module 24.

See also Doi col. 7, line 65 through col. 8, line 10, teaching a plurality of similar databases may be searched. That is, one database is searched first and, if no match is found, the next database is searched. For example, when searching for an English word, a search is made to find a matching word in an English-Japanese dictionary and, if no match is found, an English-English dictionary is searched. Examples are a Japanese dictionary and a dictionary of classical Chinese-Japanese, newspaper data and magazine data, a Japanese document and a foreign-language document, a system-prepared database and a user-prepared database.

Also Doi at col. 2 lines 20-25, describes the kana-kanji translation (conversion) function, automatically searches for a sample of candidate kanji characters corresponding to the kana characters being entered.)

In addition, Doi does not explicitly teach, but Onishi teaches:

**executing process using the keyword depending on the item
selected on the menu screen; displaying a menu screen in response
to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is
detected by said keyword detecting;**

(See, Onishi Fig. 5 col. 21 lines 20-30, teaching Onishi col. 35 line 55, teaching the semantic feature dictionary 20 is composed of a willed semantic feature dictionary 22, a contextual semantic feature dictionary 23, and a variable semantic feature dictionary 24, which will be described in detail below.

Also, see Onishi col. 91, lines 25-30, discloses at step S197, a menu screen is displayed by the selector 93 to allow the user to select one out of the first-language sentences of currently selected conversational sentence examples. Then, the selected first-language sentence is recognized; and at step S198 the display contents of the display screen are switched to a second-language sentence corresponding to the selected first-language sentence by the display unit 94. After that, the conversational sentence translating operation is ended.

Also, see Onishi col. 3 lines 65-67, teaching displaying the conversational sentence example selected by the semantic searcher and the translation thereof.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include a means of displaying a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said

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keyword detecting as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related information search method and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

Regarding independent claims 1, 4, 8, 11, and 14 respectively,

are directed a computer to perform the method of claims 15-19 respectively which cites above, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding independent claims 20-24 respectively,

are directed a computer-readable storage medium to perform the method of claims 15-19 respectively which cites above, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

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Regarding independent claims 26-27,

are directed a computer to perform the method of claims 15-16 respectively which cites above, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Claim 2,

is directed a computer to perform the method of claim 15 which cites above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Claim 3,

is directed a computer to perform the method of claim 15 which cites above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In addition, Doi does not explicitly teach, but Onishi teaches:

wherein the controller ends a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define input characters of the character string.

(See, Onishi Fig. 5 col. 21 lines 20-30, teaching Onishi col. 35 line 55, teaching the semantic feature dictionary 20 is composed of a willed semantic feature dictionary 22, a contextual semantic feature dictionary 23, and a variable semantic feature dictionary 24, which will be described in detail below.

Also, see Onishi col. 91, lines 25-30, discloses at step S197, a menu screen is displayed by the selector 93 to allow the user to select one out of the first-language sentences of currently selected conversational sentence

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examples. Then, the selected first-language sentence is recognized; and at step S198 the display contents of the display screen are switched to a second-language sentence corresponding to the selected first-language sentence by the display unit 94. After that, the conversational sentence translating operation is ended.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define input characters of the character string as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related information search method and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

Claim 5,

is directed a computer to perform the method of claim 16 which cites above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In addition, Doi teaches:

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according to an interactive process;

(See, Doi col. 3 lines 50-55, teaching analyzing text entered by a user and extracting a search keyword.)

Claim 6,

is directed a computer to perform the method of claim 16 which cites above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In addition, Doi teaches:

wherein the controller displays a program, which cannot be started by the keyword on the menu screen with a format, which indicates that the program cannot be started.

(See Doi col. 7, line 65 through col. 8, line 10, teaching a plurality of similar databases may be searched. That is, one database is searched first and, if no match is found, the next database is searched. For example, when searching for an English word, a search is made to find a matching word in an English-Japanese dictionary and, if no match is found, an English-English dictionary is searched. Examples are a Japanese dictionary and a dictionary of classical Chinese-Japanese, newspaper data and magazine data, a Japanese document and a foreign-language document, a system-prepared database and a user-prepared database.)

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Claim 7,

is directed a computer to perform the method of claim 16 which cites above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In addition, Doi does not explicitly teach, but Onishi teaches:

wherein the controller ends a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalized input characters of the candidate character string.

(See, Onishi Fig. 5 col. 21 lines 20-30, teaching Onishi col. 35 line 55, teaching the semantic feature dictionary 20 is composed of a willed semantic feature dictionary 22, a contextual semantic feature dictionary 23, and a variable semantic feature dictionary 24, which will be described in detail below.

Also, see Onishi col. 91, lines 25-30, discloses at step S197, a menu screen is displayed by the selector 93 to allow the user to select one out of the first-language sentences of currently selected conversational sentence examples. Then, the selected first-language sentence is recognized; and at step S198 the display contents of the display screen are switched to a second-language sentence corresponding to the selected first-language sentence by the display unit 94. After that, the conversational sentence translating operation is ended.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include an ending section ending a started program in response to a

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selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define input characters of the character string as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related information search method and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

Claim 9,

is directed to a computer to perform the method of claim 17 which cites above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale. In addition,

In addition, Doi teaches:

according to an interactive process;

(See, Doi col. 3 lines 50-55, teaching analyzing text entered by a user and extracting a search keyword.)

Claim 10,

is directed a computer to perform the method of claim 17 which cites above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In addition, Doi does not explicitly teach, but Onishi teaches:

wherein the controller ends a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalized input characters of the candidate character string.

(See, Onishi Fig. 5 col. 21 lines 20-30, teaching Onishi col. 35 line 55, teaching the semantic feature dictionary 20 is composed of a willed semantic feature dictionary 22, a contextual semantic feature dictionary 23, and a variable semantic feature dictionary 24, which will be described in detail below.

Also, see Onishi col. 91, lines 25-30, discloses at step S197, a menu screen is displayed by the selector 93 to allow the user to select one out of the first-language sentences of currently selected conversational sentence examples. Then, the selected first-language sentence is recognized; and at step S198 the display contents of the display screen are switched to a second-language sentence corresponding to the selected first-language sentence by the display unit 94. After that, the conversational sentence translating operation is ended.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define input characters of the character string as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related information search method

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and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

Claim 12,

is directed a computer to perform the method of claim 18 which cites above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In addition, Doi teaches:

wherein controller displays a conversion program which cannot convert the keyword on the menu screen with a format which indicates that the program cannot convert.

(See Doi col. 7, line 65 through col. 8, line 10, teaching a plurality of similar databases may be searched. That is, one database is searched first and, if no match is found, the next database is searched. For example, when searching for an English word, a search is made to find a matching word in an English-Japanese dictionary and, if no match is found, an English-English dictionary is searched. Examples are a Japanese dictionary and a dictionary of classical Chinese-Japanese, newspaper data and magazine data, a Japanese document and a foreign-language document, a system-prepared database and a user-prepared database.)

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Claim 13,

is directed a computer to perform the method of claim 18 which cites above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale. In addition, Doi does not explicitly teach, but Onishi teaches:

wherein the controller ends a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalized input characters of the candidate character string.

(See, Onishi Fig. 5 col. 21 lines 20-30, teaching Onishi col. 35 line 55, teaching the semantic feature dictionary 20 is composed of a willed semantic feature dictionary 22, a contextual semantic feature dictionary 23, and a variable semantic feature dictionary 24, which will be described in detail below.

Also, see Onishi col. 91, lines 25-30, discloses at step S197, a menu screen is displayed by the selector 93 to allow the user to select one out of the first-language sentences of currently selected conversational sentence examples. Then, the selected first-language sentence is recognized; and at step S198 the display contents of the display screen are switched to a second-language sentence corresponding to the selected first-language sentence by the display unit 94. After that, the conversational sentence translating operation is ended.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include an ending section ending a started program in response to a

selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define input characters of the character string as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related information search method and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

It is noted that any citations to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. See, MPEP 2123.

Response to Argument

The Remarks filed on 08/30/2007 has been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Beginning on page 10 of 14 the REMARKS (hereinafter Remarks), Applicant argues the following issues, which are accordingly addressed below.

It is noted, Claims 1-14, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 presented in the Office Action dated 05/09/2007, hereby withdrawn due to the Applicant's Amendments filed 08/30/2007.

Applicant argues, Onishi improperly rejected under 35 USC 102 (e), because of the following:

- Applicant argues, Onishi fails to teach, "*candidate character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized*", because Onishi's program "*selected after the character string is input*" (i.e. after the character string is defined and finalized), see the remarks Pages 10 Bottom Half → Page 11 Top Half.

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

Firstly, it is noted that the feature upon which Applicant relies (i.e. "selected after the character string is input" in other word after the character string is defined and finalized) is not recited in the rejected claim. That is, Claim 25 does not recite "selected AFTER the character string is input." Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Secondly, for clarification, Onishi teaches a conversational sentence translation apparatus that allows user freely input a sentence to be translated, includes controller item 5 Fig. 1 that controlled various modules item 1-4, (i.e.

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input unit, analyzer, semantic searcher, and display unit). See Onishi Fig. 1 and at Column 16, lines 35-60.

Onishi further discloses through a dialogue with the user, from among the conversational sentence examples chosen by the semantic searcher 13 and then partly replaced by the feature element replacer 14, a feature element selector 16 for replacing a character string corresponding to the variable semantic feature in the selected conversational sentence example or examples with another through a dialogue with the user, a display unit 17 for displaying a finally selected conversational sentence example as well as its translation in a second-language, and a controller 19 for controlling the input unit 11, the analyzer 12, the semantic searcher 13, the feature element replacer 14, the selector 15, the feature element selector 16, and the display unit 17 to execute the conversational sentence translating operation. This allows users to process candidate character string and candidate character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized, see Onishi at Fig. 5 and Column 21 Lines 4-18. This interpretation is supported by Applicant's Specification, which states, "*candidates formed by one or more undefined characters are successively displayed and one desired candidate is selected by the user*" at Page 18 Lines 5-10.) Thus, Onishi clearly discloses candidate character string is being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

In addition, the Applicant argues,

Applicant argues, Doi and Onishi improperly rejected under 35 USC 103 (a), because of the following:

- As to claim 1, Doi and Onishi fails to teach "*wherein said search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets while characters of the candidate character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized*", because Onishi's program does not teach "*inputting a candidate character string*", but rather teaches the program is selected after the character string is input, in other words after the character string is defined and finalized, see the remarks Page 11 Bottom Half → Page 12 Para 2.

For purposes of responding to Applicant's argument, the examiner will assume that Applicant is arguing for the patentability of Claim 1.

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

Firstly, it is noted that the feature upon which Applicant relies (i.e. "selected after the character string is input" in other word after the character string is defined and finalized) is not recited in the rejected claim. That is, Claim 1 and /or 25 does not recite, "selected AFTER the character string is input." Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the

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specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Secondly, Onishi teaches a conversational sentence translation apparatus that allows user freely input a sentence to be translated, includes controller item 5 Fig. 1 that controlled various modules item 1-4, (i.e. input unit, analyzer, semantic searcher, and display unit). See Onishi Fig. 1 and at Column 16, lines 35-60. This allows users to process candidate character string and candidate character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized, see Onishi at Fig. 5 and Column 21 Lines 4-18. This interpretation is supported by Applicant's Specification, which states, "*candidates formed by one or more undefined characters are successively displayed and one desired candidate is selected by the user*" at Page 18 Lines 5-10.) Thus, Onishi clearly discloses a search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries, which are selected as search targets while characters of the candidate character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

In addition, the Applicant argues,

- As to claim 1, there is no motivation to combine Doi and Onishi, because Onishi fails to teach "*display registered dictionary*" and Doi fails to teach, "*automatic searches through the available dictionary*

source in the database until the match is found" see the remarks

Page 12 Para 2 → Page 13 para 2.

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

Firstly, Onishi discloses semantic DICTIONARY in the bilingual database. And, with reference to the variable semantic feature dictionary and the variable semantic feature information and through a dialogue with a user, the feature element selector selectively replaces a character string corresponding to a variable semantic feature in the conversational sentence example selected by the semantic searcher and the translation thereof with an entry name specified by the user of the variable semantic feature and a translation in the second language of the specified entry name, respectively. This provides user a registered dictionary to process candidate character string and candidate character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized, see Onishi at Column 5, Lines 50-60.

Onishi further discloses, at step S197 a menu screen is displayed by the selector 93 to allow the user to select one out of the first-language sentences of currently selected conversational sentence examples. Then, the selected first-language sentence is recognized; and at step S198 the display contents of the display screen are switched to a second-language sentence corresponding to the selected first-language sentence by the display unit 94. After that, the conversational sentence translating operation is ended; see Onishi at col. 91, lines 25-30, This interpretation is supported by Applicant's Specification, which

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states, *"the user (or operator) may wish to look up the meaning of a word in a dictionary, to look for ... a translation of a word in a foreign language."* at Page 1 Lines 15-35.) Thus, Onishi clearly discloses registered dictionary.

Secondly, Doi discloses the following steps. (a) analyzing text entered by a user and extracting a search key; (b) searching for related information by the extracted search key; (c) storing search results collected by a plurality of immediately preceding search keys; (d) selecting a display format of an interaction element from two display formats, a first display format (mode) and a second display format (mode), based on the search results collected by the plurality of stored search keys and on a current cursor position, the interaction element accepting a search instruction from the user, the first display format being displayed when there is no related information, the second display format being displayed when there is related information; (e) changing the display format (mode) of the interaction element on a screen to the selected format (mode); and (f) displaying the search result in response to the search instruction entered by the user operating on the interaction element, based on the search results collected by the plurality of stored search keys and on the current cursor position, see Doi at Column 3, Line 50 → Column 4 Line 10. This allows the conventional system, which automatically searches for related information without interrupting document formulation, immediately displays searched information to the user. So, when there is a large amount of related information, the system is likely to interrupt document formulation often- see Doi at Column 2,

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Lines 50-63. Thus Doi clearly discloses automatic searches through the available dictionary source in the database until the match is found.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Doi's related information search method, to include a means of displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting section as taught by Onishi. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of related information search method and provide the advantage of allowing user get information on the presence or absence of information related to entered text without requiring the user to enter an explicit search instruction and a search key and without immediately displaying related information. Therefore, this system does not interrupt user document formulation more often than the above two systems (see Doi col. 2 line 65 through col. 3 line 5).

Following KSR direction; Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, and cites evidences above, the Examiner had found that Doi and have taught all the limitation of claim 1 and the Examiner has established "some motivation or suggestion to combine the prior art teachings" can be found in the prior art, the nature of the problem, or the knowledge of a person having ordinary skill in the art. See, e.g., *Al-Site Corp. v. VSI Int'l, Inc.*, 174 F. 3d 1308, 1323-1324 (CA Fed. 1999). KSR challenges that test, or at least its application in this case. See 119 Fed. Appx. 282, 286-290 (CA Fed. 2005).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Doi and Onishi to result in the claim specified in claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least all the above evidence, therefore the Examiner respectfully maintains the rejection of claims 1-3 at least at this time.

In addition, the Applicant argues,

- As to claims 4, 5-7, the Applicant argues that Onishi fails to teach, because Onishi fails to teach *"displaying a menu screen indicating a plurality of registered programs when the keyword is detected."* see the remarks Page 13 para 3-4.

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

Onishi discloses, at step S197 a menu screen is displayed by the selector 93 to allow the user to select one out of the first-language sentences of currently selected conversational sentence examples. See Onishi at col. 91, lines 25-30.

Onishi further discloses an index for associating a semantic feature with a set composed of a conversational sentence example registered in the bilingual database. And, the semantic searcher searches the individual semantic feature strings of each conversational sentence example registered in the bilingual database for the semantic features extracted from the analyzer by the use of the index. This allows the displaying a menu screen indicating a plurality of registered programs when the sentence is detected; see Onishi at Column 10,

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Lines 5-20, This interpretation is supported by Applicant's Specification, which states, "*the list of "look up ..." on the bridge menu screen is selected as the search target,*" at Page 45 Lines 30-35.) Thus, Onishi clearly discloses displaying a menu screen indicating a plurality of registered programs when the keyword is detected.

Accordingly, for at least all the above evidence, therefore the Examiner respectfully maintains the rejection of claims 4, and 5-7 at least at this time.

Based upon the current Office Action and all the above evidence therefore the Examiner respectfully maintains the rejection of claims 1-27 at least at this time.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-8664. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM - 5PM EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Quoc A, Tran/
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2176
11/25/2007


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PRIMARY EXAMINER